



JULY 15, 2017

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In the short time that I have been a member of Baystate Jeepers, I have found there to be no shortage of fun, memories, or smiles. After some thought, I've decided to delay what I've been writing up about my Wrenchfest experiences...for now. Basically, the material will come in handy when material may start to dwindle. Not to mention, I love sharing your submissions!!

I've recently managed to free up some weekend time, so hopefully I can make it out to some more runs (as a passenger/ photographer) to continually fuel my 'writing material' tanks. Not to mention, adding to a hopefully lasting new section. I think one of the best ways to reap the benefits of Jeep Smileage is to share it. And what better way than dedicating a section to it? I'd really like to see this last.

Believe me, we all understand that life gets busy, stressful, distracting, and this is really another great way, and place, for us all to connect. I'll open by sharing some of my recent smiles, but to make this section a true success...I need your help. Send me a photo, or more. Be sure to include a little something about the story behind it. The "Caption This" contest was a total bust, as I didn't receive a single entry. It's a shame, but I'm hoping a few of you contribute to this.

Remember, you are part of the club and a BIG part of the Newsletter. Without your input, I would consider myself lucky to produce a few solid paragraphs, never mind pages. So, without further ado... Feel free to use this section to express gratitude for help given, funny moments experienced on a trail run (or other Jeep event), and, perhaps more importantly, those moments that truly make us Jeepers.

Although most of you have seen this...I just couldn't contain the smiles to one page. Don't, this was honestly something I never expected to see.

You brought whole new meaning to "a walk in the woods" that day. ☺



SMILEAGE SECTION

SOMETIMES A SMILE CAN TAKE YOU FURTHER THAN A TANK OF GAS...

Lisa H., thank you for letting me ride shotgun for the trek out and back on 6/24. I had a blast passengering with you and your Husky, Blue. We had some great laughs, on and off the trail.

You were a warrior through the sloppy, bumpy ride on the second leg of the run. After determining that the noise we were hearing was a non-essential part...you continued to add to the fun of the day. From your Trail Warrior Princess look (right) to the Tread Lightly Custom Koozie I suggested (below), I look forward to riding with you again. ☺



Bob B., Lisa's boyfriend, ensured that her Jeep didn't continue to flap its newfound spare part for the duration of the long drive home. So, thanks for that, Bob!!

WESTERN MA

JUNE 3, 2017

CONTENT FROM FORUM STOLEN SHAMELESSLY
BY, SHANNON ANASTOS

I wasn't able to make it to this run, but in reading the posts about it in the forum...it must have been quite the adventure. Cassandra got stuck, several times, and needed a couple tugs. If you've wheeled with you, then you know this is no easy feat. She is a skilled leader and knows how to choose the right line. However, it sounds like this property offered up some serious challenges. The underside of her Jeep took most of the damage...Mark had to crawl under it and cut some stuff and tie some stuff off. Then Kurt towed it and removed some broken parts so she could safely make it home.

Randy lost his garage door opener, which Ralph found. It had been driven over a few times, so the button was stuck on and the red light remained lit. I imagine that if they had been even remotely close to Randy's house, he would've had a seemingly possessed door opening and closing.

Marcy (DaThug on forum) also partook of this run and had a blast. She surprised herself, and her rig's ability, by successfully tackling almost every obstacle. The big rock hill was probably the only thing that she couldn't do, but the larger rocks posed no problems. Turns out, when she thought she was fine, she bottomed out. So, the trail presented her with some reverse psychology. Then, about halfway through the run, a tree jumped out and bit her passenger door surround. Otherwise, she overcame the obstacles and enjoyed a great day.

All in all, it sounds like it was another successful, fun, and educational run for all involved.

NH CAMPING WEEKEND

JUNE 16-18, 2017

WRITTEN BY, CASSANDRA MEADS • EDITED BY, SHANNON ANASTOS
PHOTOS BY, CASSANDRA MEADS,
RYAN (BASESHAKERS), MARK ST GERMAIN

I arrived about 2:30pm on Friday. Kurt Klopp and Mark St. Germain had already begun putting up a huge tarp to keep us out of the rain. Kathe arrived in time for dinner. Shortly after dinner, we got word that a few others were not going to make it.

Ryan (Baseshaker on the forum) arrived Saturday morning with his rig in tow. Since it rained all night, I was glad for the tarp the guys had setup. The crew started to roll in around 9am. We split into 2 groups: Kurt, Mark, and Ryan stayed on the property, while Pat Charon led the class VI run. The idea of a second group on the "lighter" trails was tossed around, but short lived. Their green trails are more like tough blue trails and they get progressively worse as the colors change.

I was part of the class VI group, which was a great group of people. Amongst the regular crew was mixed a few newbies. There were some flat spots and some not so flat spots. I even got to do a couple of obstacles on the side. We made it through the day with no damage that I'm aware of. No one had to unpack a tow strap all day. Good job! Especially, since all the people who knew how to fix Jeeps were playing on the "Dark Side."

Those who camped, went back onsite, and those there for the day went on their way. Saturday was a good day!!

Sunday, the guys decided to drive the property again. Kathe and I got to ride shotgun, which was a lot of fun. You can learn a lot by watching them. The next camping trip at this property is coming up at the end of July. If you didn't make it this time, and even if you did, be sure to make it on July's trip!!

SATURDAY







WESTERN MA

JUNE 24, 2017

WRITTEN BY, SHANNON ANASTOS

PHOTOS BY, A BUNCH OF PEOPLE

I just want to say thank you to Kurt and Lisa H. for the passenger seat on the 6/24 run. As everyone met up, just down the street from the trail head, doors and windows were being stripped from vehicles. However, Mother Nature had other ideas. It started to sprinkle, which quickly turned to rain. But, it was merely a passing shower, so it didn't last long at all.

Once the clouds started to clear, and the driver's meeting finished, we began the first leg of the day. I got to ride shotgun with Kurt. I didn't know what to expect...which seems kind of crazy. But the butterflies quickly subsided when I realized what he and his rig were/are capable of. I got to a point where all I could do was laugh. All in all, it was the perfect day for wheeling!



I think everyone that went on this run will remember Don's lunchtime entertainment above anything else. Although it may be obvious, he was left unsupervised...and ended up unintentionally climbing a tree.







There was a flat tire, but that was quickly addressed and swapped out.



And a tree bit a fender flare...





This was the end of the 1st leg. From there most of us, myself included, headed to the “easier” 2nd leg of the day. I hopped back into Lisa’s passenger seat and the groups split up.

Kurt, Mark St Germain, and Manny tackled a more difficult trail up the street. From what I heard about it...there was a lot of winching involved.

When the “easier” group entered the trail head, I think most of us anticipated a relatively smooth run. It was greasy. The trail presented some challenges, not to mention a lot of slipping and sliding.

From Cassandra (trail leader):

...was awesome!! The trails we hit there are now in my top 3. I had a great time leading. I knew when I joined the group, I didn't want to be a follower just tagging along, I wanted to be involved as a contributing member. So, I enjoy leading from time to time. I do, however, like to be in the back of the pack when someone else is the lead. By leading, I'm choosing my own line, an area I know needs improvements, instead of following and choosing according to whoever is in front of me. I got to help with winching and spotting, more than I normally get a chance to.

We have a couple of great guys who are always jumping in to get a job done quickly. I think that "quickly" is the key word here, no need to be standing around discussing the situation when there is fun to be had. Let's get the tires changed and the rigs down out of the trees, so we are all back on 4 wheels and moving along. No need to wait for the guy already at the bottom of the hill, to come up and jack up a jeep.

Great day, great group. Glad to see so many come out to play. This years schedule has something for everyone, and with the new Sunday additions, there is no excuse!





DIY: FADE TO BLACK

WRITTEN BY, SHANNON ANASTOS
SPECIAL THANKS TO, MARK ST GERMAIN

Mark gave me this wonderful mixture, and with his permission, I wanted to share it with you. It's worked wonders! I'm a month into the treatment and the fog lights are still black! So, thank you Mark!!

Here's what you'll need:

- Disposable Rags
- Linseed Oil
- Turpentine
- Disposable Brush (chip brushes work well)



BEFORE

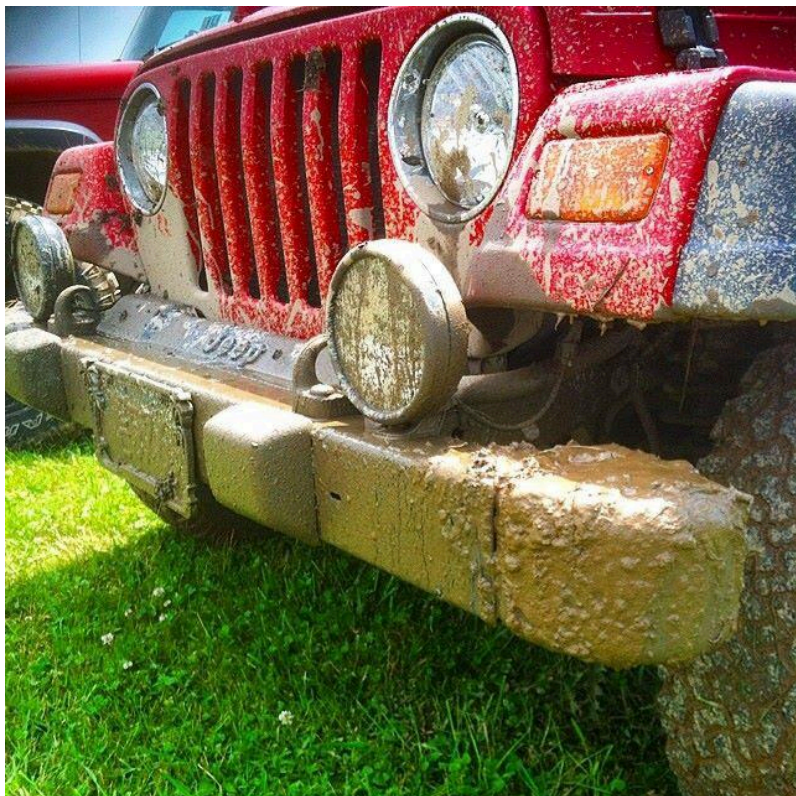


AFTER



The mixture is a simple 50/50 mix of the Linseed Oil and the Turpentine.

Simply brush it on, let it soak in, then wipe any excess off with a disposable rag. Repeat as needed. My father and I did a quick test on the fog lights, so we weren't using a brush. However, the brush will allow you to get into the more detailed areas. Be careful NOT to get it on the body of your Jeep.



I hope you enjoyed this issue of Tracks. More importantly, I hope you're looking forward to the next issue.

Thanks,
Shannon

Please email article submissions and photos (Drobox links work, too) to: RedAnimalTJ@yahoo.com

